

Advisory Policies of Virginia's Coastal Resources Management Program

Although not required for the purposes of Federal Consistency, in accordance with 15 C.F.R. § 930.30(c), Federal agencies should consider the following advisory policies of Virginia's Coastal Resources Management Program:

Advisory Policies for Geographic Area of Concern

Geographic Areas of Concern

The geographic areas of particular concern identified in Virginia's Coastal Resources Management Program are:

- Wetlands
- Spawning/nursery/feeding grounds
- Barrier islands
- Coastal primary sand dunes
- Highly erodible soils
- Coastal high-hazard areas
- Mineral resource areas
- Underwater historic sites
- Significant wildlife habitat areas
- Waterfront development areas
- Significant public recreation areas

Coastal Natural Resource Areas - These areas are vital estuarine and marine ecosystems and/or are great importance to areas immediately inland of the shoreline. "Natural heritage resources" are defined as the habitat of rare, threatened, or endangered plant and animal species, unique or exemplary natural communities, and significant geological formations. Such areas receive special attention from the Commonwealth because of their conservation, recreational, ecological, and aesthetic values. These areas are worthy of special consideration in any planning or resources management process and include the following resources:

- Wetlands;
- Aquatic Spawning, Nursery, and Feeding Grounds;
- Coastal Primary Sand Dunes;
- Barrier Islands;
- Significant Wildlife Habitat Areas;
- Public Recreation Areas;
- Sand and Gravel Resources; and
- Underwater Historic Sites.

Coastal Natural Hazard Areas - This policy covers areas vulnerable to continuing severe erosion and areas susceptible to potential damage from wind, tidal, and storm related events including flooding. New building and other structures should be designed and sited to minimize the potential for property damage due to storms or shoreline erosion. The areas of concern are as follows:

Highly Erodible Areas; and
Coastal High Hazard Areas, including flood plains.

Waterfront Development Areas - These areas are vital to the Commonwealth because of the limited number of areas suitable for waterfront activities. The areas of concern are as follows:

Commercial Ports;
Commercial Fishing Piers; and
Community Waterfronts.

Although the management of such areas is the responsibility of local government and some regional authorities, designation of these areas as Waterfront Development Areas of Particular Concern (APC) under the VCP is encouraged. Designation will allow the use of Federal CZMA funds to assist in planning for such areas and in the implementation of such plans. The VCP recognizes two broad classes of priority uses for waterfront development APC:

Water access-dependent activities; and
Activities significantly enhanced by the waterfront location and complementary to other existing and/or planned activities in a given waterfront area.

Advisory Policies for Shorefront Access Planning Protection

Virginia Public Beaches - Approximately 25 miles of public beaches are located in the cities, counties, and towns of Virginia exclusive of public beaches on state and Federal land. These public shoreline areas will be maintained to allow public access to recreation resources.

Virginia Outdoors Plan - Planning for coastal access is provided by the Department of Conservation and Recreation in cooperation with other state and local government agencies. The Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP), which is published by the Department, identifies recreational facilities in the Commonwealth that provide recreational access. The VOP also serves to identify future needs of the Commonwealth in relation to the provision of recreational opportunities and shoreline access. Prior to initiating any project, consideration should be given to the proximity of the project site to recreational resources identified in the VOP.

Parks, Natural Areas, and Wildlife Management Areas - Parks, Wildlife Management Areas, and Natural Areas are provided for the recreational pleasure of the citizens of the Commonwealth and the nation by local, state, and Federal agencies. The recreational values of these areas should be protected and maintained.

Waterfront Recreational Land Acquisition - It is the policy of the Commonwealth to protect area, properties, lands, or any estate or interest therein, of scenic beauty, recreational utility, historical interest, or unusual features which may be acquired, preserved, and maintained for the citizens of the Commonwealth.

Waterfront Recreational Facilities - This policy applies to the provision of boat ramps, public landings, and bridges, which provide water access to the citizens of the Commonwealth. These facilities shall be designed, constructed, and maintained to provide points of water access when and where practicable.

Waterfront Historic Properties - The Commonwealth has a long history of settlement and development, and much of that history had involved both shorelines and near-shore areas. The protection and preservation of historic shorefront properties is primarily the responsibility of the Department of Historic Resources. Buildings, structures, and sites of historical, architectural, and/or archaeological interest are significant resources for the citizens of the Commonwealth. It is the policy of the Commonwealth and the VCP to enhance the protection of buildings, structures, and sites of

historical, architectural, and archaeological significance from damage or destruction when practicable.

Advisory Policies for DoD Agency Activities and Development Projects

Practice Hint: Although not inclusive, the following is a list of advisory policies of concern identified by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality for DoD activities or development projects.

1. Natural Heritage Resources and Wildlife. The Virginia Natural Heritage Program represents a comprehensive effort to inventory and preserve the animal, plant and natural community resources of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Natural Heritage (DCR-DNH) administers the Virginia Natural Heritage Resources Program. For more information contact Mr. Derral Jones at (804) 786-9042/7951 or visit the DHR homepage at <http://www.dcr.state.va.us/dnh/>.

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries administers the Virginia Wildlife Resources Program. For more information contact Mr. Raymond Fernald at (804) 367-1000 or visit the DGIF homepage at <http://www.dgif.state.va.us/>.

2. Historic Structures and Archeological Resources. Primarily, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) administers the Virginia Historic Structures and Archeological Resources Program. For more information contact Ms. Carla Metz at (804) 367-2323, extension 105 or Ms. Lily Richards at (804) 367-2323, extension 140 or visit the DHR homepage at <http://www.dhr.state.va.us/home.htm>.

3. Solid and Hazardous Wastes. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Virginia Waste Management Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency administer the Virginia Solid and Hazardous Wastes Program. They administer programs created by the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)(commonly called Superfund) and the Virginia Waste Management Act. For more information contact Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Tidewater Regional Office (Hampton Roads) at (757) 518-2117 or visit the DEQ Waste Management homepage at <http://www.deq.state.va.us/waste/>.

4. Pesticides and Herbicides. The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) administers the Virginia Pesticides Services Program. For more information contact Mr. Frank Fulgjam at (804) 786-3501 or visit the VDACS Pesticides Services homepage at <http://www.vdacs.state.va.us/pesticides/>.

5. **State Scenic Rivers and Scenic Byways.** The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) administers the Virginia State Scenic Rivers and Scenic Byways Programs. For more information contact Mr. Derral Jones at (804) 786-9042 or visit the DCR homepage at <http://www.dcr.state.va.us/>.

6. **Tree Protection.** The Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) administers the Virginia Tree Protection Program. For more information contact Mr. Mike Foreman at (804) 977-6555 or visit the VDOF homepage at <http://www.dof.state.va.us/>.

7. **Pollution Prevention.** The Virginia DEQ's Office of Pollution Prevention (OPP) administers the Virginia Pollution Prevention Program, which provides free, voluntary, non-regulatory, technical assistance and materials to industry, governments, academia, non-profits and the general public on how to prevent pollution. For more information contact Mr. Tom Griffin at (804) 698-4545 or visit the DEQ-OPP homepage at <http://www.deq.state.va.us/p2/>.

8. **Energy Conservation.** The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's (MME) Division of Energy administers the Virginia Energy Efficiency Program, which coordinates the implementation of energy management planning in Virginia. For more information contact Mr. Eugene Radar at (804) 951-6358 or visit the MME Division of Energy homepage at <http://www.mme.state.va.us/De/default.htm>.